November 9, 1954

Mr. Richard Picker
74-54 220th Street
Bayside 64, Long Island, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

I am writing a book on the copper coins of the 1776-1789 period and Mr. Walter Breen has advised me that you have a Vermont reverse which is not listed in the Richardson additions to the Ryder list. I have photographs of all of those numbers in as choice condition as possible and I would very much appreciate it if you could lend me, for photography, your specimen of the new reverse. I have a coin photographing setup at my home since I have been borrowing so many coins for my research. Walter Breen has indicated that he would very much like to have a picture of an 1809 half cent which is also a new variety. If you want to send that half cent along I will be glad to take a picture of it and send it to him.

The work I am doing centers around the coinage at Machin's Mills, New York, and will be completely illustrated.

Although I do not know you, my A.N.A. number is 4624 so you can see how long I have been interested in this subject.

If you wish me to take pictures of any other coins in your collection I shall be glad to do it as a courtesy to you.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES RESPECTFULLY INVITED

November 15,1954

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I was delighted to receive your letter and request. The enclosure, I am sure, you have opened and examined by this time, so I won't elaborate upon it too much. However, a few words are necessary.

As to the new variety of the Vermont Reverse Die (obverse 22), I have been given to understand that there is a second one known and owned by Kenneth Bresset of 28 Woodbury St., Keene, N. H. He is doing a monograph on Vermont cents and may be able to help you with other specimens, The piece he supposedly owns has been said to be a few points better in condition than mine. He also has a photographic set-up, and most probably would supply you with a photo of his item.

I am also enclosing a Ryder 7 of Vermont which seems to be in better condition than either the Ryder or Richardson plates. The 1809 half cent which has a completely new reverse die, I would like photographed as a favor to both Walter and myself; and would appreciate it if you would not show the picture, coin or negatives to anyone else. My position on this is that I am a dealer, and having discovered this piece, would like to continue looking for more examples before the discovery becomes public knowledge. However, feeling that the scientific numismatic circles should not be hindered by my search, I have let Walter Breen in on my discovery. He has included it in his forthcoming book, and is anxiously awaiting a photo of it. The ANS is swamped for a few months, and Ken Bressett flubbed on it by having a wrong exposure when I made it available to him at the Hartford convention. Since then, I have shown it to the New York club, 11/12/54, but have had no opportunity to have it photographed for Walter. So, if you don't mind, I would appreciate itif you would send me the photo and negative of this half cent, and a photo to Walter. If he should need the negative, I could then supply him, but I would like to own the negative.

Richard Picker

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Mr. Newman

If there are any other coins on your want list to be photographed, I would be only too happy to cooperate if I have them, or have access to them.

Now comes the coincidental part of this letter. I was planning to write you within the next few days, strictly on the basis of your reputation. I have now for sale, at $200, the Unc. Hines specimen of the Newman 11-A, Fugio (United States below). I am the same person who recently sold a N2-C Fugio to a client in the near middle West, who may have sent it on to you for authentication.

Again, I should mention the importance of your getting in touch with Ken Bressett, as he has a fairly complete collection of photos of the finest known Vermonts. Also, I have an Immune Columbia (Obv. Geo.III), which is obviously a Machin's Mills product, if you would be interested in photographing it. Also, Walter Breen purchased from me a very nice example of R.31 (Vermont), which also is a definite Machin's Mills product, which I feel certain he'll send on if asked.

Again, let me ask you not to hesitate in any request that you may have, as to material to photograph, or as to material to purchase.

Sincerely,

Richard Picker

Richard Picker.

November 26, 1954

Mr. Richard Picker
Post Office Box 33
Oakland Garden Station
Flushing 64, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of November 15, 1954 and to thank you for your cooperation.

I am having a little difficulty with my photographic work and there will be a further delay in the return of the items to you but I hope it will not be long.

As to the 1809 half cent I will send pictures to you and Walter only and will not discuss the matter. As to the Newman 11A Fugio I already have a perfect specimen.

It is very interesting to me that you sell die varieties of colonial coins and if you have any Connecticuts for sale please let me know. I would like to buy a nice 1787 52G. I need a couple of 1788. I also can use certain Vermont cents. Above all I would like you to send me, on approval, any Virginia halfpence which you have and any of the ~~British~~ plantation 1/24th real pieces.

I certainly look forward to hearing from you and thank you, sincerely, for your cooperation.

Cordially yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

November 29, 1954

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Stores Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you very much for your letter of Nov. 26. It is perfectly all right for you to hold the thr e coins that I sent you for a while. However, one of them has been offered for sale to a client who wishes to give it to another collector for a Xmas gift, so that I would like to have them back in time to send them out to arrive before Xmas.

I am sending you on approval the one example that I have of the Florida plantation token in pewter, priced at $15, and six Virginia half pence, which are priced as marked on the inside flap of the envelope. I would appreciate the return of the Virginia pieces as soon as you are finished examining them and/or choosing which ones you may desire, inasmuch as these pieces are appearing in my December advertisement; and I would like to have them on hand to send out.

Return envelopes

I have quite a number of Connecticut centswhich I will list. If there is anything in this field that you desire, please do not hesitate to write me:

1785	2A′	1787	12Q
1785	3′ A³	1787	13D
1785	4′ F⁴	1787	14H
1785	5′ F⁵	1787	15F
1785	6³ G²	1787	32³ X⁴
1785	6⁴ I	1787	33² r²
1786	2′ A	1787	33³ Z′′
1786	5′² L (5²L supplement)	1787	33³ S′
1786	5⁵ M	1787	34 ff′
1786	5⁸ H²	1787	37⁴k⁵
1786	5⁹ Q	1787	37¹⁰ RR
1787	1′ A	1787	39′h′
1787	2B	1787	43′Y
1787	6′M	1788	2D
		1788	16′D

Send 4

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

Mr. Eric Newman

I also feel that the Auctori Plebis piece belongs in this series, and I have one of those for sale as well.

I also have a nice group of Vermont cents for sale, the first of which, though it is not normally included in the Vermont series, I feel belongs there:

1785 Immune Columbia (obverse Geo.III)	1787	R-12
1785 R-3	1788	R-16
1786 R-6	1788	R-19
1786 R-8	1788	R-20
1786 R-9	1788	R-24
1786 R-11	1788	R-31

OK There is also another item which I feel belongs in the Vermont series, and that is the Machin's Mills counterfeit of the Geo. III obvers and Britan nia reverse of 1787.

Yes It may also interest you to know that in my own collection I have a complete collection of all of the die varieties and die break progressions of the Nova Constellatio series of 1783 and 1785. I am missing only the 1786. Should you desire any of these for photographic purposes, I should be only too pleased to comply with your request.

I have quite a number of other colonial coins and early U. S. coins for sale. I am trying to specialize in the die varieties of half cents and large cents in the entire series and other denominations before 1815. However, I also include in my specialty rarities of later periods. I would appreciate it if you would send me your want listas to those coins which you are lacking and those that you have, but need improving.

Should you decide to purchase any of the enclosed coins, I would appreciate your noting to me the indications that I have made on the bottoms of my envelopes for bookkeeping purposes.

Sincerely yours,
Richard Picker.

Enc.

HOLLIS 4-9330

RICHARD PICKER

COINS

P.O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDEN, STA.

FLUSHING 64, NEW YORK. N. Y.

DATE _____

№ 38

SOLD TO Eric Newman
St Louis, MO

1	1773 Virginia	18-7	8 50
1	1773 "	19-8	9 —
			17 50

Paid

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

December 6, 1954

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I just received a choice lot of colonials, and in that lot I have a few in which I thinkyou might be interested:

	Conn. Cents	
1788 M.11-G	$50.00	Unc., original mint red, slight planchet clipping.
1788 M.5-B	17.50	This coin is VF-EF, and struck over a Nova Constelatio cent. This also has a planchet clipping. The overstriking is very evident on the reverse.
1788 M.2-D	35.00	This coin is uncirculated, though the planchet shows a slight roughness on the head. There seemsto be some minor corrosion on the reverse.

In addition to these coins, in which I knowyou are specifically interested, I also have some other very rare items, such as the Raleigh plantation token, the Lord Baltimore groat (unc), 1786 New York "non vi virtute vici", the Sommer Island shilling, and the Kentucky cent with the engrailed edge.

I also have an unusually nice example of the Mark Newby farthing in silver, some very nice farthings in copper, and some half penneys. I am enclosing another Virginia half penney, which I just received which is evidently not from the Cohen "hoard".

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

Richard Picker

Richard Picker.

enc.

December 7, 1954

Mr. Richard Picker
P.O.Box 33
Oakland Garden Station
Flushing 64, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

Thank you for your nice letter of November 29, 1954.

I am keeping two of the Virginia halfpence and returning the balance along with the envelopes of the two I am keeping. I am also returning the Florida token and Vermont Ryder 7. I will be glad to send you items in exchange for these Virginia pieces or send you money, whichever you wish. If you tell me what, in colonial, might be of interest to you, I will gladly forward them to work out an exchange basis which will be of benefit to you.

You might also forward to me the following Connecticuts which you listed:

1785 2-A(1)
1787 34-ff(1)
1787 37 2-k(5)
1787 37(10)-rr

You might also send me the Machin's Mills counterfeit halfpence.

I am very interested to know that you have a complete collection of the Nova Constellatios and I would very much like to examine them. I have all of the varieties listed in Crosby in my collection as well as an American colonial counterfeit of the issue. I have photographs of choice specimens of all of these varieties but have not gone in to die progressions. If you have any die varieties not listed in Crosby I will be very glad to see them.

You have no idea how pleased I am to be in touch with you as the research I am doing involves considerable work with die varieties and that seems to be one of your specialties.

December 7, 1954

Mr. Richard Picker
Flushing, New York

I am having a little difficulty with my photography but expect to solve it within the next week or two. I have two professional photographers who are assisting me and they have been neglecting me for a little while; however, just as soon as I get perfect pictures of your Vermont piece and the half cent I will return them to you.

You might keep your eyes open for me for genuine Florida plantation pieces.

Kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

December 10, 1954

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you very much for your letter of Dec. 7. I am glad that you were able to use a few of the Virginia half pence. I am also very glad to hear that you are doing a die variety work on them; it is something that has long been needed. I will be very happy to send on any Virginia pieces that I might come across, to help you in this work. However, if you would give me any indication as to what, specifically, you are looking for, or what, specifically, you do not have to see, it might simplify our mailing situation. The original Florida pieces are very tough to come by; I have seen very few of them and do not own any of them at present.

I am sending along the other coins for which you asked. In addition, I just picked a 1788 Connecticut 3(1(B(1) struck over 1785 Nova Constellatio. It is very interesting and unusual, and I am exhibiting it tonight at the New York club. When I find out more about it, such as the variety of the Nova Constellatio that it was struck over, I will send it on to you, if you so desire.

As for my own collection of Nova Constellatios, I would be very much pleased to have you see them, but I would like to wait until after the Xmas rush in the Post Office Department is over, in order to avoid any possible loss. I will send them on to you for your inspection after the first of the year.

As to our business dealings, it would be much more convenient for me, as far as my bookkeeping is concerned, to accept money for the coins I send you for sale. However, I am in a position to purchase for cash any duplicates you may have to offer in the early U. S. and colonial field. If, however, you prefer trades for tax purposes, this also can be arranged.

December 10, 1954

Mr. Eric P. Newman

If you have a duplicate of he 1785 Nova Constelatio Crosby 2-A, I would be very much interested in purchasing it, inasmuch as my copy has the "U.S." worn almost completely off, because of the bulging die.

I would also be interested in an extremely fine 3-B of 1785, very late die state. Also, my 4-C could use improvement.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Picker

Richard Picker.

Enc.

P. S.
I just received a request from a customer for an EF or Dark Brown UNC Virginia half penny, such as I sent you the other day. If you do not need it, I would appreciate the prompt return. If you can use that one, perhaps you can sell me one of your duplicates in the desired condition.

December 17, 1954

Mr. Richard Picker
P.O.Box 33
Oakland Garden Station
Flushing 64, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

It is certainly a pleasure to correspond with you and I appreciate your prompt cooperation.

In accordance with your request I am returning the 3 Virginia halfpence you sent me, the 4 Connecticut coppers you sent me, the Machin's Mills piece you sent me and the 1788 Vermont with the new reverse. This should be called No. 36. I still have your 1809 half cent and I am having a terrible time photographing it. However, I am going to change the lighting and in that manner I believe I can get a clear picture.

The reason I am sending back the Connecticuts is that they are not in good enough condition for me to acquire.

You stated that you had a Raleigh plantation token and I would be very much interested in having you send this to me although I do not know what it is. Is this the plantation token in tin 1/24th real of James II? If it is I will be glad to acquire it if I do not have it and it is in reasonable condition.

I am enclosing a check for the two Virginia halfpence.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P.NEWMAN

EPN/atb

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES RESPECTFULLY INVITED

December 22, 1954

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thanks very much for your letter and check. You asked about the Raleigh plantation token. It isn't the same as the Florida piece. I believe it was struck in England for circulation here. It is known in brass and copper on thick and thin planchets, and though I have been told otherwise, I believe that the thick planchet in copper is the one that is most often seen. The piece I own is the thick planchet in brass. I don't have the coin at hand inasmuch as it is out on approval at present, so that I can not give much a description of it. I believe that you will find it mentioned in Betts, although I am not ce tain. Should it not be accepted by my other client, I will send it on to you for yo r approval.

In your letter, you did not mention whether or not you would be able to help me with any of the Nova Constellatios that I would like to improve; nor did you mention any possibility of my purchasing some of your duplicates for stock. I would be very much interested in hearing from you in regard to both of these matters.

Inasmuch as I acquired some new Conn. cents since I last sent you a listing, I am taking the liberty of sending some to you for your approval. Some of these may have already been listed to you, but since my stock has been integrated, I do not know. I am also taking the liberty of making a suggestion in regard to your photographic difficulties. I have heard that some years ago, coins were photographed, with very good results, under water and also under clear white oil, which eliminated a lot of the refraction factors. I don't think that placing a coin under water or oil, for the short period of time necessary to photograph, would harm the piece. However, if you decide to try this, I would suggest that you experiment with inexpensive coins until definite results are obtained, and you determine that no harm has been done to the coin.

December 22, 1954

Mr. Eric P. Newman

I use a clear white mineral oil (U. S. P. XII, put out by Fisher Scientific Co., which has a branch in St. Louis) to preserve copper coins occasionally. The ANS recommended it as it is completely non-reactive to metals.

By the way, I just received a beautiful proof Virginia PENNY. If you are interested in that, I will send it on for your approval. I would also like to know what other series or denominations you collect, and will be pleased to act on any of the want lists that you may care to submit to me.

Very sincerely yours,

Richard Picker

Richard Picker.

enc.
rp/a

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
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SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

December 27,1954

Mr. Eric P. Newman,
Edison Bros. Department Stores, Inc.,
400 Washington Av.,
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I forgot to mention in my last letter that I would appreciate a few prints of the coins of mine that you are photographing. If you are so equipped, I would like to have two regular size, and two enlargements of each of my coins (VTR 7 and VTR 36 and 1809 half cent).

Very sincerely yours,

Richard Picker

Richard Picker.

rp/a

January 19, 1955

Mr. Richard Picker
P. O. Box 33
Oakland Garden Station
Flushing 64, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

I have been away on a vacation and as a result did not have the opportunity to respond to your recent letter. Primarily I am returning herewith your 1809 half cent with the new reverse die with two pictures of the obverse and reverse. This was a very tough coin to photograph and I am satisfied you will wish more prints and will have them made. I have already forwarded prints to Walter Breen. No one else will be permitted to see these. I am also enclosing a photo of your new Vermont reverse.

Unfortunately, the Connecticuts you sent me are already in my collection. I was very surprised to have all of them in my collection as this usually doesn't happen. As you realize, I have a great many Connecticuts and it is hard to add them in nice condition.

I am ready now to examine your collection of Nova Constellatios. I will certainly enjoy it as I have some choice gems myself. As I may have told you, I even have a counterfeit one of the period. After I see them I will be able to tell if any of my duplicates would be of benefit to you.

It is a real pleasure to have your cooperation in connection with the work I am doing. I have just finished one article on the 1/24th real piece and finally have finished the Virginia halfpence article. The new articles from here on I am planning to consolidate in one original article but may have to break them up for convenience. Mr. Crosby didn't leave very much for me to poke into and what he left out was extremely difficult

Mr. Richard Picker
Flushing 64, New York

January 18, 1955

to solve. Of course, those of us today have the benefit of indices of early documents and publication of original records whichhe did not have the opportunity to use.

With kindest regards to you,

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

January 21, 1955

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Brothers Department Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you very much for your letter and return of the coins, which I received today. I am sorry, and was as surprised as you were, that you had all of the Connecticuts that I sent to you, in better condition. They were an unusual lot. However, I will not give up trying and will send you any new choice items that I acquire. It would be a help to have some sort of a want list to follow in the Connecticut, as well as the other state coinages, colonials and U. S. denominations that you are missing or wish to improve.

I am happy to hear that you finished a few articles, and I am waiting anxiously to read them, especially those two, on which nothing definitive had been done previously. I am also anxious to know if you have done any research on the Raleigh plantation token, which I mentioned some time ago. I have been able to find a few references to it, but that is about all: " Aspects of Death in Numismatics ", Weber, p. 95; and " Coins of the British Colonies " (?), London 1889 or 1890, p. 250.

I have an appointment to show my Nova Constellatios to somebody next week and will send them on to you some time early in February for your inspection.

If there is anything else that you may require for any of your forthcoming works, do not hesitate to write.

Very sincerely yours,

Richard Picker

Richard Picker.

rp/a

PS. Thanks also for the photos

RP

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES RESPECTFULLY INVITED

February 8, 1955

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Dept. Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I am sending my collection of Nova Constellatios for your inspection, and I will appreciate your sending on approval any pieces thatyou feel might improve any of mine. If there is anything here that you may care to photograph, you have my permission. I have promised to show them to somebody on March 3rd, and if it is at all possible, I would appreciate their return by that time.

Also, I have discovered another Vermont piece (Ryder #5). At present, it is at the A. N. S. being photographed, and I will send you a copy of the print as soon as I receive it. Since you photographed my 1809 half cent, I am anxious to know whether you have been able to discover another specimen. Breen and myself have been looking in vain and have been waiting for reports for the news of the discovery of another example. Also, I am still anxious to receive any want list that you may care to submit.

Verysincerely yours,

Richard Picker

Richard Picker.

rp/a

March 4, 1955

Mr. Richard Picker
P. O. Box 33
Oakland Gardens Stations
Fulshing 64, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

Thank you very much for sending me your Novas. I have carefully studied them and was particularly interest in the breaks. The only one which I know about is a contemporary counterfeit in my own collection.

I am looking forward to receiving the picture of the Vermont piece (Ryder #5). I have never seen one and since it is a counterfeit in the first place and has been subsequently faked, I am interested in any information with respect to it.

I have never found another variety of your 1809 half cent, and I saw Walter recently and he was pleased to get the picture.

I am looking for specimens of the Florida plantation token if you find any. You will be interested to know that I have six die varieties located.

When I have a little more time, I will write you in further detail.

Sincerely,

EPN:dv

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

March 16, 1955

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Dept. Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 4th. I am enclosing the photo of the Vt. Ryder #5 that I recently acquired. I am of the opinion that it is a contemporary counterfeit, but of course, with a coin like this, nothing is ever certain.

I am glad that you found my Nova Constellatios interesting, and I am anxiously waiting for the letter that you promised to write in further detail. I would also like to know if you have any duplicates that might improve any of my pieces.

You mentioned that you saw Walter recently. That indicates to me that you must have been in or near New York. Should you find yourself here again, I would appreciate it if you would give me a call, and we could get together and talk coins some evening. I plan to be at the Detroit and New York conventions this Spring, and if you could to either one of them, I'd be very happy to meet you.

I haven't run across any more Florida pieces, but I am very surprised to learn that there are that many die varieties. I was always under the impression that there was only one die and that it broke during the restriking.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

Richard Picker

Richard Picker.

rp/a

April 7, 1955

Mr. Richard Picker
P.O.Box 33
Oakland Garden Station
Flushing 64, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

I may not be much of a correspondent but my heart is in the right place in respect to numismatics.

I am enclosing a table of die varieties which I have prepared with respect to the 1/24th real pewter pieces. This will be published in the Numismatist along with a complete article on the subject.

I have almost finished an article on the Virginia coinage which will be sent to ANS for publication.

I am very grateful to you for your photograph of the Ryder 5 which you sent. Is this the coin that was auctioned in Philadelphia a year or two ago? I would appreciate knowing its weight and I think it would be wise to find out its specific gravity by weighing it on a thread under water and weighing it in the air.

As far as Novas are concerned, I have run across a trial piece on a particularly large planchet which Stacks owns and it is variety 5-E. The only real improvement I can make in your group is a duplicate I have of 1783 1-A. I have been looking for this item for years and finally got two of them at the same time. They are obtainable in worn condition easily but choice ones are hard to find. I would exchange it for something which I might not have or even to improve the condition of an item I have.

My time in New York is usually quite limited and if I have a chance I will be glad to look you up. I do not go to coin conventions and so you will not be meeting me at those lively affairs.

Even though I don't write too often, please keep in touch with me as to anything interesting that comes to your attention. Who knows, you might get an answer by return mail.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

HOLLIS 4-9330

RICHARD PICKER

COINS

P.O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDEN, STA.

FLUSHING 64, NEW YORK, N. Y.

DATE 4/14/55

Nº 555

~~SOLD TO~~ Eric Newman

For Inspection & Authentication

1	1785 R-5	Vt.	125	—	

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

April 15, 1955

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I was really delighted to receive your table of die varieties of the Florida pieces. I am now looking forward to seeing the completed article, and I do hope that it is with photographs.

The article on the Virginia coinage interests me very much. I think you are doing a fine thing for numismatics, since this work has never been done before. Most of the recent works on these early coins, up to this time, have been merely rehashes.

The photograph of the Ryder 5 that I sent you is of a coin which I think is a new discovery. I have it on consignment from another dealer, who would like me to dispose of it for him. He purchased it from a collector some time ago. I am enclosing it so that you may make whatever weighings of it that you may deem advantageous. If, of course, you are interested in the purchase of it, it is for sale at $125.

I would very much like to have the duplicate of the 1783 1-A Nova Constellatio that you mentioned in your letter. I will be very glad to exchange it for anything that you may need in the same price category. And I would appreciate your pricing it for that purpose, and let me know what your needs may be.

I have just acquired a new specimen of the 1785 2-A in about VF-EF condition and shows the full US, the die just beginning to buckle. If you are interested, I will send it on for your inspection.

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

Mr. Newman April 15, 1955

You might be interested in knowing that I just acquired a pair of Immune Columbia cents in silver and copper. The copper one, with the period and star in border, is the same as obverse 2 of the 1783 Nova Constellatio. The silver piece with the star and period in border is the same as obverse 3 of the 1785 Nova Constellatio. Although Crosby mentioned that these dies were to be found in the Nova Constellatio series, he never did identify just which ones they were. It would be interesting to find out if some of the other known examples of the Immunes show other obverse dies.

I am sorry that you do not plan to attend the conventions. We do have some interesting times there, but if you do find some time when you are in New York, I would be very happy to meet with you.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain

Very sincerely yours,

Richard Picker

Richard Picker.

rp/a
enc.

May 5, 1955

Mr.Richard Picker
Post Office Box 33
Oakland Garden Station
Flushing 64, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

I have been studying the Ryder-5 which you sent me and it is the identical die or a copy of the identical die of another piece which I am familiar with. I am delayed in obtaining the loan of the other Ryder-5 I know of but I will see it in due course. Your piece weighs 136 grains and has a specific gravity of 5.3. As you know, a struck copper has a specific gravity of about 10. This piece, therefore, must have considerable zinc or possibly air pockets from casting. Crosby, while not stating Ryder-5 is a counterfeit, indicates there are copies of it.

You asked a number of questions about the Immune Columbia coins and my research on this is completed and will be combined in the major book I am writing. I have tied the Nova Constellatio dies to this series and there are three different reverses for the copper piece and one for the silver. My plates are prepared but I do not have copies of them, for the moment. Possibly the next time I am in New York I will show you some of this work.

I have been delayed slightly in the publication of my Virginia article because I have uncovered some new material in England but hope to wind this up within a month.

As to the 1783 Nova 1-A, it is the nicest one I have ever seen. In fact, it is so identical in quality to my own collection specimen I do not know which to select. When you get something interesting, let me know and possibly we can work out the exchange. I am returning the Ryder-5 you sent me, herewith, as the price is a bit high for a counterfeit of a counterfeit.

Kindest regards and continued success.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
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INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

May 12, 1955

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Dept. Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis, MO.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thanks very much for your interesting letter of May 5th. I am very anxious to see the work you have done on the Immune Columbia and Nova Constellatio pieces. I would like very much to have the 1783 Nova 1-A, and would like to have some idea as to your wants, since I have a very large stock of colonials and other early U. S. items. NOTE

The Ryder 5 that I sent you was one that was in the stock of another dealer, and I have taken it on memo at the price indicated, to sell it at a commission. Frankly, I am dubious as to its value, but since the piece is so sought after, I imagine it will be sold, if it isn't, as you say, a counterfeit of a counterfeit.

Sincerely,

Richard Picker.

rp/a

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

June 9, 1955

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Dept. Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

As per my promise, I am sending you whatever Virginia half pennys that I acquire; and enclosed are two recent purchases for your approval. Note that one is on a fairly large planchet.

I am still waiting to see the Nova Constellatio 1 A, and for some idea of what you might want for it as far as coins, credit or cash is concerned.

Very sincerely yours,

Dick

Richard Picker.

rp/a
enc.

HOLLIS 4-9330

RICHARD PICKER

COINS

P.O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDEN, STA.

FLUSHING 64, NEW YORK, N. Y.

DATE 6/9/55

Nº 577

~~SOLD TO~~ Eric Newman

St Louis Mo.

Approval

1773 Virginia 1/rd	41-21	3	50	B-10	
" " "	41 22	6	—		
		9	50		

June 24, 1955

Mr. Richard Picker
P.O.Box 33
Oakland Gardens Station
Flushing 64, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

You are very cooperative in sending me Virginia cents for examination and I really appreciate it even though I do not have enough time to work on these matters the way I should. I am returning the two items to you although 10-B is the first one I have seen of that combination.. I am satisfied there will be plenty more which I have not seen but my article has been sent to A.N.S. for publication within the last day or so and I therefore know there will be other varieties which are not in my list. However, someone has to start the ball rolling.

The only thing numismatic I have done recently is to visit the site of Machins Mills, outside of Newburgh, New York.

Don't worry about the Nova 1-A. It will just rest here until you turn up something I want and, believe me, you will.

I am taking my summer vacation shortly so do not expect replies which are prompt.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
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INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

September 27, 1955

Mr. Eric Newman
Edison Bros. Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

I finally came up with the Conn. cent that you may be able to use. It is a 1787 52-G. Miller calls it rarity 6; would this be a fair trade for your 1783 Nova Constellatio Crosby 1 A?

Have you heard from the Society as to when they are going to publish your work on the Virginia half penny? Also, I would be interested in knowing if this work included any study of the Virginia penny and so-called shilling.

Sincerely yours,

Richard Picker

Richard Picker.

rp/a
enc.

September 29, 1955

Mr. Richard O. Picker
P. O. Box 33
Oakland Gardens Station
Flushing 64, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

I am enclosing two copies of the reprint of my article on the 1/24th real in view of your interest in these matters.

I think I have found a use of these coins in America where Cresby, on page 203, mentions a coin called a "black dogg".

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

October 18, 1955

Mr. Richard Picker
P. O. Box 33, Oakland Gardens Sta.
Flushing 64, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

I have not forgotten you as your letter crossed my last letter.

I do not have the 1787 Connecticut 52-G although it is not in nice condition, as you know. It has been rubbed raw in several places and it is not too strongly struck.

I am enclosing the Nova Crosby 1-A which is in extremely fine condition and which is the sharpest one I have ever seen other than the one in my collection, which is almost identical. In this condition I consider the Nova quite rare. My specimen is from the Hines collection.

You certainly have tried hard to find something which would please me in an exchange and, for that reason, I wouldn't turn you down even if I felt that the coin I am sending you is a better item. I hope you get a lot of pleasure out of the Nova. If you got the best of me this time please keep that in mind for the next time.

My work on the Virginia halfpence is being reviewed at A.N.S. and they have had it for four months. It does include a complete study of the large size copper you call the Virginia penny and the information on the shilling.

I think you will enjoy all the material I found on the Virginias.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,

EPN/atb

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

October 25, 1955

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Dept. Stores, Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis, MO.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you very much for your letter of Oct. 18th. I did not answer your previous one, since our letters crossed. I should like to thank you for the two pamphlets you sent me; they are very interesting. I am looking forward to the publication of your work on the Virginia pieces.

In regard to our swap, although I am happy, I do not feel that I got the better of the bargain, since the 52 G, although not in nice condition, is quite a rare coin. In discussing it with Breen, I believe he has been able to track down only 8 or 9 pieces, including the one I sent you, none of the others being in much better condition than this one. As for the Nova Constellatio, I am very pleased with it, since it does improve my piece considerably. I would like, some day, to find one in which the die has not been damaged, and one where the U. S. is completely struck up. Have you ever of any such piecws? Also, is there any pedigree on the piece that you sent me.

Hoping to hear from you soon, I am

Sincerely,

Richard Picker

Richard Picker.

rp/a

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

March 9, 1956

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Stores Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Nothing very much exciting here in N. Y. as far as coins go, though I did discover what may turn out to be a new variety of the Fugio cent. The obv. is definitely # 19, but the rev. is still in doubt. It is definitely not Z or M. It may be rev. S, but the plates in the pamphlet are so poor, that positive identification is not possible. I sent it to Walter Breen, and he's not certain either. Yesterday, I was at the ANS, and looked at the S revs that they had, but since Walter had the coin, again nothing definite. However, from what I remember of the coin, I think it's new. One of the distinguishing characteristics of it is that the upright of the last E is to the left of the upright of the first E. When I get it back from Walter, I'll make positive identification, and let you know.

Since you mentioned in the pamphlet that the photos for it were taken at the ANS, I asked if they would make up a set of plates for me. Their answer was that since it was your original order, they couldn't do it without a letter from you giving your permission. I would appreciate it very much if you would send me a letter, addressed to the ANS, giving them the permission. Since they may want to keep it, I'd suggest that you make it a separate letter to them rather that mentioning it in your reply to me. Also, have you ever come to any conclusion as to the relative rarity of the different die varieties. Walter gave me his interpretation of Douglas' work in that respect, but I would like to have your opinion on them.

You might also be interested that I recently handled the Continental $ in brass # 1-B. I also traded a 1-B Fugio to Walter for a beautiful 4-D Nova. After re-reading, I recall that I sold him the 1-B fugio, and traded an 1811 G-2 ½¢ with the break over the first 2 stars only for his nova.

Nothing else new, so just hope to hear from you soon,

Sincerely,

Dick

Richard Picker

March 13, 1956

Mr. Richard Picker
P.O.Box 33
Oakland Gardens Station
Flushing 64, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

Thank you for your letter of March 9th. I look forward to hearing from you as to whether you find a new variety of the Fugio cent. If you do, please let me have a print of a picture.

Walter advised me of a new obverse 22 quite some time ago and I never got a picture of it nor do I know with what reverse it is combined. Would you obtain a picture of this coin if you can.

As far as writing to the A.N.S. and giving you permission to make pictures, I have a much better scheme. I am going to write A.N.S. and ask to borrow their negatives and then have enlargements made of the various die varieties. They would not be in a position to know what plates I have them on and I will have to sit down and work out which ones to request. My original pictures from which the published plates were made are in my possession and I will be glad to do this for the benefit of all concerned.

I presume you are not planning to publish them. I am going out of town for a short vacation and the determination of the plate numbers will have to await my return.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

March 16, 1956

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Stores Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thanks very much for your letter of March 13th. I am delighted to hear that you plan to make enlargements of the Fugio Plates, and would greatly appreciate a set. However, if you have no objection, I would also appreciate the opportunity to have the society make a few sets of normal size for me. Of course I don't intend to publish any of them. I plan to have the pamphlet bound in a hard cover with a set of good plates, and interleaved for supplemental information. This would not be a commercial venture, but I would make up a few books, and give them to a few of my customers who are interested in the subject. If I found that it was too costly, I would charge my exact cost, but as I said before, under no circumstances do I plan to profit from this in any way except that I may gain a little good will. Incidentally, I've had copies of the large Maris plates made and gave them all away, the recipients all being very grateful. I hope that you can see your way clear to let me have these made, as well as the plates of the continental dollar section. The ANS now has a cross reference index for their negatives, and can locate them easily by subject matter.

I spoke to Walter, and he told me that a copy of the print of obv 22 was sent to you when it was made. It was combined with rev M. The ANS neg # 5557. I called ANS, but the neg is on loan to Walter, who knows nothing about it. I then called NN, and they don't recall it, but will search their files, and will return it if found. Meanwhile, I left an order for 6 prints if they locate the neg, and will send you one if successful. My piece turned out to be a new rev die with obv 19. I had it photographed yesterday, and will send you a print as soon as I receive them. Meanwhile, this may help you:

STATES

Rev. New (obv. 19) Tops of WE even. Left top of W barely touches band, and is thin. Middle crosspiece of E almost level. Secont T in STATES opposite middle and upper part of A in ARE. Star in band over right half of W. die defects in 9th and 13th links. A leans a trifle right, and is closer to R than on rev S.

Walter also told me to mention that about the summer of 1955, Coin Galleries (N.Y.) auctioned a new combination, 1-L. I'm still interested in knowing if you've been able to assign comparative rarities to the different die varieties. Also, have you ever been ableto turn up a specimen of the new variety of 1809 ½¢ that you so kindly photographed for me some time ago?

I hope you have a pleasant vacation, and am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Richard Picker

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

March 23, 1956

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros, Stores Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Enclosed is the photograph of the new reverse combined with obv #19, as described in my letter of the 16th to you. I would appreciate your comments on it. Also, would appreciate an answer to above mentioned letter.

Hope you've had a pleasant vacation,

Sincerely,

Richard Picker

April 2, 1956

Mr. Richard Picker
P. O. Box 33,
Oakland Gardens Station
Flushing 64, New York

Dear Dick:

Thanks for your photo of the new reverse SS. If you can send me another copy I will appreciate it. I am changing your description to:

SS STATES on left and UNITED on right. Extension of upright of second T in STATES would become center line of ARE. Right leg of A lower than left leg. Left upright of N in ONE mostly left of upright of R above. Die breaks develop from near first S in STATES across the 9th link to edge and within 13th link.

Congratulations on this find and keep going.

The 1-L specimen I examined and it is correct. You know of 9-S and 13-N.

I hope you have an easy job of getting pictures together. Certain of my pictures have faded and if you have an extra of obverses 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 19 and reverses N,P,Q.T, I could use them on my photo plates. However, if it will help you for me to lend you my plates I will gladly do so.

As to obverse 22 I find it on ANS plate 5890. If they have lost it my print can be rephotographed. Of course you can retake the coin. I would like another picture of it for my mounted plates.

As to rarity I believe the ones in the board are common and Douglas studied those. I frankly do not think we have had enough data from collectors to judge scarcity. I know obverse 1 is scarce, so is 21.

What I would like to see most is the publication of the

April 2, 1956

Douglas monograph. If he doesn't get together with them on the finishing touches some of us, if there is no objection, ought to do so.

You will be interested to know that my article on Coinage of Colonial Virginia has been accepted for prompt publication by A. N.S. so I'm finishing its revision now.

Incidentally, I think I know who E. C. FECIT on the Continental Dollars must be. My candidate is Elisha Gallaudet of New York. He did the N. Y. Waterworks notes I just found. He is the only American engraver with the initials E.C. I have located in 15 years of hunting.

Good luck.

Sincerely,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

April 2, 1956

American Numismatic Society
Broadway between 155th and 156th Sts.
New York City 32, New York

Gentlemen:

Richard Picker has asked me to permit him to have prints of certain photographs of Fugio cents which you made for me quite some years ago. You may furnish those to him or lend him the negatives.

According to my records the plates are:

A 457 and A 459 (pair)
A 458 and A 461 (pair)
A 470 and A 471 (pair)
A 496 and A 498 (pair)
1682 and 1683 (pair)
A 455, A 456, A465, A 468, A 472,
A 497, 4815, 5890 (obverse only).

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

HOLLIS 4-9330

RICHARD PICKER

COINS

P.O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDEN, STA.

FLUSHING 64, NEW YORK, N. Y.

DATE 4/4/56

Nº 385

~~SOLD TO~~ Eric P. Newman

FOR INSPECTION

1773	Virginia	N. 10-B	41-21			
"	"		23-17			
"	"		24-12			
"	"		46-26			
"	"		46-27			
"	"		53-35			

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
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INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

April 4, 1956

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Stores Inc.
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thanks very much for your letter of the 2nd. I'll have the plates made as soon as I can get up to the ANS. Enclosed is an extra photo . Also, since you're making revisions on the Virginia article, I'm enclosing this piece, which you said was a new combination 10-B, as well as a few more that I dont think you've seen.

Your discovery concerning E.G. is very interesting. Have you been able to prove anything on it, or is it that there just doesn't seem to be another E.G.

That's a good idea about the Douglas monograph. How would we go about it? I know him, but not well enough to ask. Do you know him? Do you think Breen might be the logical one to approach him? Do you think it might be a good idea to incorporate his work with yours, adding the new items discovered, and publish one revised work?

Did you know that Breen, in conjunction with F.C.C. Boyd, is working on the die varieties of the Mark Newbey's? I've done a little checking and found that what we call the halfpenny, and farthing, were originally made to be a penny and halfpenny respectively, and a third piece, a farthing was made, but having an inscription bearing the name of Charles I, and that was probably why Newby didn't bring them with him. The brass plug is supposed to be gold to bring the ~~pr~~ value of the pieces up to par.

If the ANS cannot find neg # 5890, I would like to have the coin rephotographed, do you know who owns it?

Sincerely,

Richard Picker

April 24, 1956

Mr. Richard Picker
P.O.Box 33
Oakland Gardens Station
Flushing 64, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

I am returning herewith the Virginia coins you sent me and have indicated the classifications I am using with respect to them.

As to the Douglas monograph, I would not wish to contact him on the matter as I believe he has lost interest in having the document published or else he has some other reason why he does not want to cooperate with ANS to complete it. For the present I think the matter should rest. I know him and he is a diligent scholar but he has been either diverted from his interest in coins or is irritated about something I do not know. Perhaps in the future this matter can be solved.

I am fully familiar with the New Jersey work which is being done by Boyd and Breen and helping to a minor extent.

If ANS cannot find the negative on their photograph No. 5890, it is easy to have the coin re-photographed. I believe they own it.

I have just completed a thorough revision of my Virginia article, thanks to suggestions from Mr. Williamson, and many new facts from other sources. There never seems to be any end to the available material except one's patience.

I am coming much closer to the "E.G." matter. I have proof that he made cuts for paper money and although this may be a deduction by elimination, it is fairly convincing.

Thank you, very much, for the extra photo of the new Fugio variety.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
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HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
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RESPECTFULLY INVITED

Sept. 12, 1956

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Stores Inc
400 Washington Ave
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

It was a real pleasure finally meeting you, and seeing part of your fabulous collection. It was unfortunate for me that we couldn't spend more time together. I'm looking forward to the Central States convention next spring, and hope that at that time my education will be advanced a little further.

We spoke about so many interesting things, that I don't recall exactly what I said I'd send for your inspection, but I'm enclosing a few things that I think you'll be interested in seeing. I've had the Roman Head for quite some time now, at first being quite convinced that it wasn't genuine. However, a few people felt that it might be a trial strike in white metal. Since I've never owned an original, I have nothing with which to compare it. What's your opinion? After having handled quite a few of the Ship Half-pennies during the past few years, I find that it's very unusual to find one with the uninjured reverse. The Rosa, I remembered that you wanted to see. The 1664 token is something that came into my stock with a small lot, and I was obliged to take. Needless to say, I didn't take it on the basis of what was written on the envelope, but it does show how some people will be bilked. Have you ever seen it before, and do you have any idea as to what it might be?

I received a letter from Ken Bressett a few weeks ago in which he said that he's received some interesting information from you in the past, and that he was going to write you again. I'm still looking forward to a call from you when you're in N.Y. with a little time to spare.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Dick

Richard Picker

RICHARD PICKER
COINS
P.O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDEN, STA.
FLUSHING 64, NEW YORK, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

№ 1152

DATE 9/12/56

Eric P. Newman

St Louis Mo

APPROVAL For Inspection

ITEM	INVENTORY NUMBER	PRICE
1792 Washington ? Roman Head	30-5	
1793 Washington Ship Injured die	45 24	
1793 " " Uninjured "	64-28	
1722 Rogo Amer. 1/2 d. DG. Rex	46-28	
1664 Token	54-28	

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

Sept. 17, 1956

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros Stores Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Enclosed is a photo of what I believe to be another ne w die variety of the Fugio cent. The reverse is very much like your rev. W, but varies in a few details which are obvious, especially the difference in die breaks. The obverse s ems to be that of your #17, but since I don't have a 17 obverse for comparison, and since the plates in the pamphlet are too poor to make positive identification, I'll leave that open. There is a small break in evidence from the top of the I to the O which leads me to believe that it's a late stage of #17. The photo of course is for you, but I would appreciate your opinion. If I may anticipate you, are you going to call this 17-WW, if you bear out all of the above?

~~XXXXXXX~~,

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Richard Picker

September 20, 1956

Mr. Richard Picker
P. O. Box 33
Oakland Gardens Station
Flushing 64, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

I certainly congratulate you on your ability to dig up new die varieties. You are certainly correct that you have found a new Fugio reverse, again, and I certainly appreciate your diligence in so doing. I will call it, tentatively, WW, as you suggest, but may revise this situation if it becomes necessary. There still must be some more varieties as Crosby indicates a total which I have not reached on normal coins. Congratulations, again, Mr. Discoverer!

It was very nice to have the opportunity to meet you in St.Louis and I am sure our paths will cross soon again. I have seen Mr. Franz for one pleasant evening since then and I believe that he is interested in Colonials.

With respect to the coins which you sent for my examination, I am satisfied that the Roman head is not struck as it shows certain casting defects. You realize this, of course, and if it were struck it would be much bolder.

The Washington Ship halfpence are very interesting but, as you will note, the one from the uninjured die shows slight injury nevertheless. It is a little better specimen thanthe one in my collection and if you would like to exchange something for it I will work something out with you.

The Rosa is a scarce variety and the only reason I spoke of it was that I merely improved my specimen considerably by finding an uncirculated piece. As to the Unicorn piece, this looks like an English Tradesmen's farthing. I notice in Snelling that it indicates that some of them bear only the emblem of the business firm. The date certainly checks correctly for these tradesmen's farthings and I am sure that you are familiar with English tradesmen's tokens and could identify this if it is not that series.

Among other things you mentioned was some kind of a stick to clean coins and you indicated you might sent me one. If you tell me what it is I will be glad to get it here if you do not have a supply handy.

September 20, 1956

I ran into some very exciting material in my research a few days ago. I found out in the 1730-40 decade English halfpennies were passing in New York for a penny and that the merchants of New York had them shipped over whenever there was a balance in their favor and made a lovely profit on the situation. It also pointed out that when some of the merchants agreed not to do it that it merely encouraged others to do it all the more. I have also found out that some one counterfeited English halfpence in Pennsylvania after the Revolutionary War and I am going to make every effort to find out what he counterfeited. All this material will eventually end up in my book on the history of early copper money in America.

I am returning the coins which you sent me herewith.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

Sept. 25, 1956

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Stores Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thanks very much for your interesting letter. Though I was fairly convinced about it, I was delighted to receive your confirmation of the new reverse. I've since checked the obverse, and am about certain that it's a late stage of #17. Is that what you felt? Though I call the Washington piece enclosed the uninjured die, I don't refer to the injury that appears on the edge a little above and below the water line on the right. What I'm referring to is the injury when the dies evidently came together without a planchet in between, and caused the incusation of the letters (only some) of 'PRESIDENT' under the word HALFPENNY, notably 'NT' slightly beyond. I've never seen or heard of a piece without the other injury. Have you? Of course you may have it on a trade. Just send anything that has about the same retail, but , please, no Rosa or Wood pieces, I have very little call for them for some reason. I don't want to give any hints, but that 1785 Nova 2-A Unc, would look mighty nice in my collection. Don't take that seriously, I'm only joking as I ramble on. The enclosed sticks by the way, I get from a watchmaker, and I don't know what they're called, but it's something like "peg wood". Get a very sharp point with a razor blade, and you'll find that it picks out dirt remarkably well. It has some sort of natural impregnation, and may leave a slight waxy film, but a little brushing after cleaning will leave an unusually nice surface.

Just read a very interesting book, William Stuart, Counterfeiter, printed privately for him in 1854, when he was in his 60s. He tells of hammering 6ds into shillings, and shillings into quarters between 2 pieces of leather. Also of casting pewter quarters. But the most interesting bit was about paper money. He had all sorts printed in Canada, and in the 1830s (I presume) when so many banks were springing up, as soon as he heard of a bank about to open, he had bills made up for that bank, and got them into circulation in that area before the bank had their own ready. By the time the bank started to circulate its own bills, they were looked upon with suspicion, because the tradesmen were already used to the counterfeits. This may be old stuff to you, but it was new and interesting to me.

Glad to hear that you spent some time with Mr. Franz. He's very nice, and I think that he's interested in colonials, but too new at it to start collecting them seriously. I feel certain that after some study, he'll be much more interested, but at this time, I hesitate to send him any of the more important pieces. I am on the lookout for choice common ones for him, which I think he can appreciate more.

I guess that by this time you've heard of the passing away of Wayte Raymond. It happened either Saturday night or Sunday morning. I'm going to the funeral services tonight. Also, along the lines of sad news, you probably havn't heard from Ken Bressett lately because they just lost their newly born baby.

Was just looking at Crosby, and though he states that there are no less than 27 obverses, and 24 reverses, he calls the FUGIO side the reverse, and the link side the obverse. With the two new reverses, SS & WW, there is now his total of 27. That leaves only 2 more new obverses to be discovered just to catch up to him. He doesn't mention how many combinations he found. By the way, I'm listing all of the new ones that I've heard of, and I'd appreciate it if you'd tell me if you know of any others.

1-L, 9-S, 13-N, 17-WW, 19-SS, 20-R, 22-M

I'd also appreciate your write up of this new WW rev., as well as the write up of obv. 22, which, so far I've been unable to locate, coin or negative. Do you plan to do a supplement, or rewrite the Fugio pamphlet? If so, give me a little more time to find the missing obverses.

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Richard Picker

RICHARD PICKER
COINS
P.O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDEN, STA.
FLUSHING 64, NEW YORK, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

No. 1172

DATE 9/25/56

Eric P. Newman
400 Washington Ave
St. Louis 2, Mo

APPROVAL

	ITEM	INVENTORY NUMBER	PRICE			
	1793 Wash. Ship'yrd injured die	4524	21	—		
	" " " " uninjured "	64-28	32	50		

October 2, 1956

Mr. Richard Picker
P. O. Box 33, Oakland Gardens Sta.
Flushing 64, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

From your last letter you indicated that you were unable to locate the negative of obverse 22. I have one print of it which is on No. 5890 and was made by the A.N.S. You might ask them again whether they could locate it and if not another picture could be made as I believe they own the coin.

There is an additional reverse which could be added, the one in which the rays are supposed to extend through the links. There is a negative impression of such a coin John Ford tells me although no coin exists. Perhaps this is one of the elusive dies which was found.

Incidentally, I have never been over to A.N.S. to see the revised material on the dies which were found and I suspect that in the article that Douglas wrote the more recent amendments indicate where the dies really are. It has never been clear to me where the various dies are today. Yale is supposed to have one. The Mattatuck Historical Society is supposed to have one and I will get into that situation some day unless you already know the answer.

Don't be so sure about Crosby having the right number of obverses and reverses and he often counted recuttings of the die as different types. With your help I think we are far ahead of what Crosby could have seen already.

I will let you know about the ship halfpence in due course.

Sincerely yours,

EPN/atb

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

October 17, 1956

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Stores Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

No new discoveries this week, except a new obverse of N.J. It's not really new, Boyd has had one since 1936, but it was unknown to Maris, and up u ntil now, his was the only one known. It's called #23½-R, enclosed is a photo for your records. If you don't want it, please return it, don't like to see them go to waste.

I'll check further into Fugio obverse #22 and the negative the next time I'm at the ANS. Some time ago, Bill Clark told me that they have some Fugio dies stored away in their (ANS) basement, along with a good number of other dies, but stored in such a disorderly manner that they'd never be found. Doesn't sound logical, but it looks as though whoever would want to study those dies, would first have to clean out their basement. Possibly you might do better on your next trip there. I believe Douglas studied them, but I'm not certain.

If you have an opportunity, I'd appreciate it if you could reread my last letter, and make some comments on that book that I mentioned, and your opinion as to the obverse of the Fugio. Is it a late state of # 17? How did you make out with those sticks?

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Dick

Richard Picker

October 22, 1956

Mr. Richard O. Picker
P. O. Box 33
Oakland Garden Station
Flushing 64, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

I just haven't had time to get around to taking care of you but thought you would like to have a working copy of the plates on my forthcoming article on Coinage for Colonial Virginia.

Thank you for the photo and I will let you hear from me on the Washington ship pieces as promptly as I can.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/a tb

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

November 5, 1956

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Stores Inc
400 Washington Ave.
St. Louis 2, Mo.

Dear Mr. Newman:

Please excuse the delay in thanking you for the plates of the Virginia pieces. I assume that it's going to be an ANS publication, is that correct? I tried using the plates already, but not having any descriptive material, and not knowing what combinations are found, I found it quite difficult. But I did get a few done. I found a few in my stock that gave me some trouble, and I'm enclosing them for your inspection, as well as another from the collection of a friend of mine, which I'm attributing. This same friend also has a worn but confusing Fugio, which I'm enclosing. Let's see what you can make of this piece. As for the Virginias, I don't know whether or not to hope that there might be some material towards a revision already.

Countersunk

Encyclopedia
my dog
the dark
scrapbook.

No rush on the Washington items, take your time on them, as well as on thee Virginias from my stock, but I would like an early answer on the other two pieces, so that I might return them. I've finished the rest of the collection.

Recently, I acquired a set of scales similiar to yours, and have come up with some very interesting weights (of coins), which I'll go into more fully at a later date. Right now, I would appreciate it very much if you would describe the additional equipment you designed for your set to enable you to take specific gravity, as well as the formula used in working it out. I remember that after you determined the SG, you used a table, which I assume was to determine the metal. Correct? If not, for what? Also, where is such a table available?

Even at this early date, I'm looking forward to the Central States Convention and hope that since it's going to be on your doorstep, you'll attend. In any event, I'm planning to come out a few days in advance, and hope to spend some time with you. I believe that when I was there I tentatively identified the reverse of your altered date 1804 half-dollar as that of Rev H of 1806. Did you ever pin it down?

Kindest regards,

Sincerely,

Richard Picker

November 15, 1956

Mr.Richard Picker
P. O.Box 33
Oakland Gardens Sta.
Flushing 64, New York

Dear Mr. Picker:

As you guessed the Virginia plates will be part of an A.N.S. publication coming out in December.

I investigated the 1804 half dollar and have now found that the obverse is Beistle 4(a) and the reverse is H(a) of 1806. While it is entirely possible that it is an alteration, it is also possible that the obverse die was recut at a later date to make the 1804 coin. In other words, it might be as genuine as the 1804 dollars. Whatever it is, it is most unusual and an example of numismatic crookedness at its best.

You asked about how to use the scales to measure specific gravity. You should take the pan and its support off of one side of the balance and make a new pan out of very thin material,supported by three very thin wires or some thread which will not absorb water. A plastic cup should rest on the base so that the substitute pan can be immersed in it. It is now necessary to make a counterbalance weight so that the substitute pan, when immersed in water plus the counterbalance weight, will be equal in weight to the pan and its supports on the other side. In this manner you are in perfect balance when the substitute pan is under water. When the coin is weighed under water there is no difficulty in balancing. The formula for determining specific gravity is to take the weight of the coin in air and divide that weight by the difference between the weight of the coin in air and the weight of the coin in water. There is a table of specific gravities of coin metals in the Numismatic Scrapbook between 1940 and 1945 but I forgot where. Any encyclopedia will give you the specific gravity of metals or any engineer's handbook. The difficulty comes when metals are mixed. I will try to find the schedule in the Scrapbook if you cannot locate it.

I am returning the 3 Virginia, duly identified and also the Fugio. I am sorry these varieties are not new but I expect you to be the first one to turn up some that I haven't listed.

I am also returning the 2 Washington ship halfpennies as I don't know what you want in trade. Your valuations and mine are sub-

November 15, 1956

stantially different but if you still have themtthis spring you can suggest what is fair in trade of my duplicates.

I am enclosing a little picture of my specific gravity scale and hope you are successful in completing one.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

ERIC P. NEWMAN

EPN/atb

Encls.

Richard Picker

P. O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDENS STA.
FLUSHING 64, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

SPECIALIZING IN EARLY U. S. AND
COLONIAL COINS BY DIE VARIETIES

INQUIRIES
RESPECTFULLY INVITED

December 10, 1956

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Edison Bros. Stores Inc.
400 Washington Avenue
St. Louis 2, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman:

First I must appologize for not answering your letter sooner. The last round of conventions put me so far behind in my mail, that I'm just getting caught up. I read your letter as soon as I returned, and put it aside to answer at my leisure. Now I'm looking forward to the ANS package. It isn't often that they publish something in which I'm interested. Regarding the 1804 half dollar, doesn't a close examination reveal whether the coin or die was altered? I'd like to examine it further, and if you would put it in the mail to me, I'd appreciate it very much. If you'd rather not, we can put that off til the spring. Also, rather than put these coins back into stock, or put them away where I will most probably forget all about them by the Spring, I'm enclosing them again, and you can keep them aside until I get out there, and I'm certain that we can arrange a trade. Your description of the Specific Gravity set up is very clear, and that's the first project on the agenda, as soon as I get a little more of the backlog cleared away. Thanks for the attributions, I never would have been able to tell definitely what they were, just from the plates. Am still planning to have that set of Fugio plates made, but I just don't seem to find the necessary time to get up to the ANS, and spend any time there. The last few times that I had to have some photos taken, I had my wife make the trip, and wait until the coin was shot, and then they mailed me the photos. Please excuse the lack of paragraphs, it's much faster when you're pecking out letters with two fingers.

Kindest regards, and have a happy holiday season,

Sincerely,

Richard Picker

RICHARD PICKER
COINS
P.O. BOX 33, OAKLAND GARDEN, STA.
FLUSHING 64, NEW YORK, N. Y.
HOLLIS 4-9330

№ 1263

DATE 12/10/56

Eric P. Newman

St. Louis, Mo

APPROVAL

ITEM	INVENTORY NUMBER	PRICE	
1793 Wash. Ships ½¢ injured die	45-24	21	-
" " " " uninjured "	64-28	32	50